Group gets Cardinals for $150 million

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anheuser-Busch announced Friday it has agreed to sell the St. Louis Cardinals for $150 million to a group of investors who say they will keep the team in the city.

The group includes William DeWitt Jr., a Cincinnati businessman who has owned interests in the Baltimore Orioles, Texas Rangers and the Cincinnati Reds. DeWitt's father once owned the St. Louis Browns and later the Reds.

Anheuser-Busch announced in October it wanted to sell the team, which it has owned since 1953, to focus more on its core businesses. The company claimed the Cardinals lost $12 million in 1995.

DeWitt's family has been involved in baseball since 1916, when his father worked as an office boy for the St. Louis Browns. The elder DeWitt later owned the team, then became a top executive for the Detroit Tigers and owned the Cincinnati Reds until 1966.

The younger DeWitt worked for the Reds for several years in the 1960s and owned 15 percent of the team until 1966. He tried to buy the Reds for $15 million but lost out to Marge Schott in the 1980s.

In 1989, he was part of a partnership that bought the Texas Rangers, and in 1993 joined Peter Angelos in buying the Orioles.

■ **Rangers sign Hill, Henneman:** Pitcher Ken Hill and the Texas Rangers agreed to an $8.1 million, two-year contract. Texas also agreed to a $1 million, one-year deal with reliever Mike Henneman.

Hill was 10-8 with in 18 starts with St. Louis and 11 with Cleveland last season.

Henneman was 0-1 with 18 saves and a 1.50 ERA in 29 relief appearances with Detroit before he was traded to Houston, where he was 0-1 with eight saves in 21 games.

■ **Jays grab ex-Red Hanson:** Right-hander Erik Hanson, who became a free agent after going 15-5 with the Boston Red Sox last season, agreed to a three-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Hanson, 30, spent the first six years of his major league career with Seattle and Cincinnati before moving to Boston. He had a 4.24 ERA last season.

■ **Brown will join Marlins:** Pitcher Kevin Brown has agreed to a $12.9 million, three-year contract with the Florida Marlins. Brown, a 30-year-old right-hander, was 10-9 with a 3.60 ERA with Baltimore last season. He played in the Texas organization for nine years prior to signing with the Orioles.

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☐ Bengals

CONTINUED FROM/1D

would work out until 8:30 in the morning. It paid off."

Brumfield returned to Cincinnati bigger and stronger.

"Before he left, he could do 1½ reps at 275," Bengals strength coach Kim Wood said. "Now he can do 15. That (change came within) 18 months. Now he's strong and real rough."

Truitt had five jobs in 1992 in Knoxville, from mowing yards to waiting tables to driving a limousine. He also ran a camp for kids. Two NFL punters saw him snap and told him he belonged in the big leagues. Truitt sent tapes of himself around the NFL.

"It took two years. I had tryouts with the Redskins and Dolphins," he said. The Bengals signed him in '94 and he became the NFL's oldest rookie in 47 years. Truitt recently signed a contract for next season, his third, when he will make a little over $192,000.

"This is a great opportunity for me to do what I love to do. I get paid very well for it, a lot more than what I should for what I do. It's really not work," he said.

☐ Carter

CONTINUED FROM/1D

He began emerging as a marquee receiver in 1993, then topped an 86-catch season with an NFL-record 122 grabs in 1994. Carter can break that record today with eight catches against a struggling Cincinnati secondary. He already has more yards (1,292) and touchdowns (16) than in 1994, plus Carter's presence has helped teammate Jake Reed post consecutive 1,000-yard receiving season.

Besides athletic ability, Bengals receiver coach John Garrett said Carter's route-running sets him apart from other receivers.

"He's really got a knack for setting people up," Garrett said. "He'll run a route and break out, then run a route and break in. It seems like he studies guys. He doesn't have the speed after the catch to take a 10-yard play and make it a 50-yard touchdown, but he's right up there with the elite in the league."

Having just turned 30, Carter probaby could hover among the NFL's receiving leaders into the next decade. But Carter says he wants to play for only three more seasons, then enter seminary school to become a minister. He already is active in numerous charity groups and works closely with a ministry in West Palm Beach, which is where he now lives.

"Once I was drafted by Philadelphia, I accepted Christ in my life," Carter said. "But I kind of slipped away from it and started doing my own thing. I knew this is what I always wanted, but I always made the excuse like a lot of people that when I get older and mature a bit I'll live right. I realized I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I wanted more out of my life."

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